

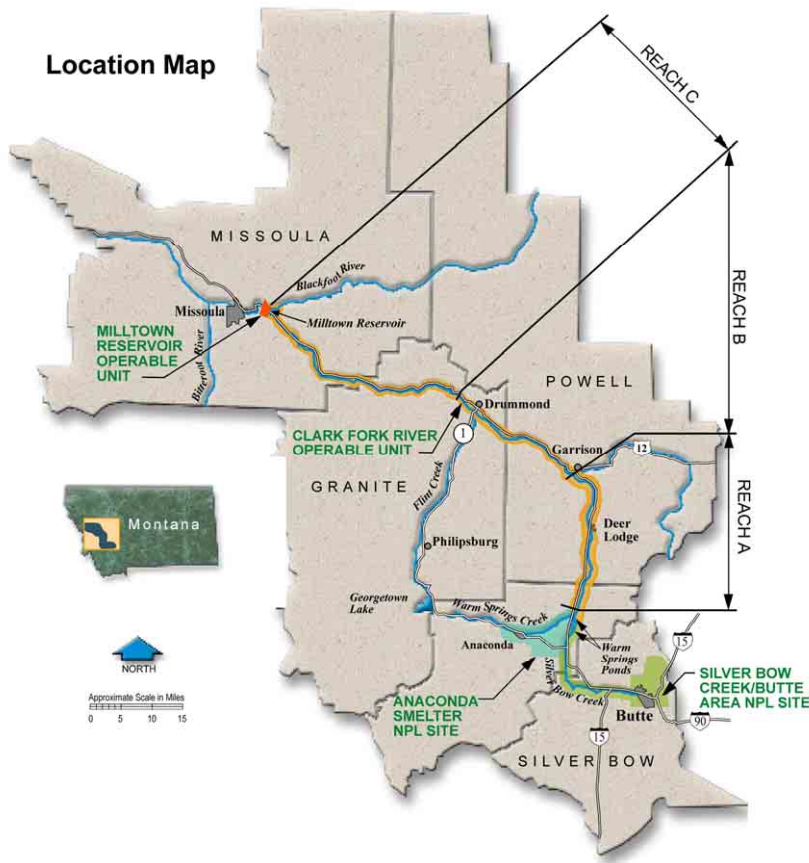
Fact Sheet

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with concurrence from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has released a *Record of Decision* addressing 120 river miles of the Clark Fork River, from the headwaters near Warm Springs Creek to Milltown Reservoir (just east of Missoula); approximate boundaries are shown on the Location Map below.

EPA is the lead agency for the Clark Fork River Operable Unit (OU), and DEQ is the supporting agency. In August 2002, EPA, in consultation with DEQ, issued a *Proposed Plan* for cleaning up the Clark Fork River. EPA received more

than 2,000 comments on that proposal from members of the public, numerous groups, agencies, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Atlantic Richfield Company (the Potentially Responsible Party [PRP]). The *Record of Decision* includes a *Responsiveness Summary* that addresses the comments submitted on the *Proposed Plan*.

This fact sheet summarizes EPA's Final Cleanup Decision for the Clark Fork River OU. It is intended to provide general information about the full *Record of Decision*, and does not take the place of the full *Record of Decision*. Copies of the complete *Record of Decision* are available in several document repositories and on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/sites/mt/milltowncfr/cfrou.html>



Description of the Selected Remedy

EPA's selected remedy for the Clark Fork River OU addresses mine waste from historic mining, milling, and smelting processes linked primarily to the Anaconda Copper Company operations in Butte and Anaconda. The following is the Selected Remedy for Reach A and for limited areas within Reach B. No action is proposed for Reach C (see the Location Map on the first page):

- The *Record of Decision* defines exposed tailings areas. Exposed tailings will be removed, backfilled where appropriate, and revegetated, with a limited exception. The limited exception is: exposed tailings that are 400 square feet or less, less than approximately 2 feet in depth, and contiguous with impacted soils and vegetation areas. When all of these conditions are present, the area will be treated in place (in-situ) rather than being removed.
- The *Record of Decision* defines areas of impacted soils and vegetation. In most instances, areas of impacted soils and vegetation will be treated in place by adding lime and other soil amendments as appropriate, soil mixing, and re-vegetation.
- In some instances, impacted soils and vegetation areas (impacted areas) will need to be removed. This may occur for the following reasons:
 1. Depth of contamination prevents adequate and effective treatment in place;
 2. Saturated conditions make in-situ treatment difficult and ineffective; or
 3. Post-treatment arsenic levels, after one re-treatment attempt, are still not at acceptable levels for human health.
- The Clark Fork River Riparian Evaluation System (CFR RipES) process will be used in remedial design to identify exposed tailings and impacted areas, and areas where the exceptions to removal or in-situ treatment will apply. EPA and DEQ will work closely with landowners in designing appropriate cleanup plans for the landowners property.
- Streambanks will be stabilized primarily by "soft" engineering (with limited hard engineering where conditions warrant) for those areas classified, through the use of the CFR RipES process, as unacceptably eroding streambanks, and an approximate, flexible 50-foot riparian buffer zone will be established on both sides of the river. Subsequent remedial design activities and the CFR RipES process will define the streambank classifications and the most practical and effective methods and the exact location for streambank stabilization. The riparian buffer zone width will be flexible, depending on landowner needs and the nature of the stream at a given location. This approach will lessen the high rate of erosion and contaminant input from streambanks, prevent or reduce the uncontrolled release of contaminants, and partially address potential stream braiding as a result of overbank flows. Stream stabilization techniques are further described in the *Record of Decision*.
- Opportunity Ponds will be used for disposal of all removed contamination.
- Weed control will be a major part of all cleanup plans.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used throughout Reach A and in limited areas of Reach B to protect the cleanup. BMPs will be part of landowner specific plans, and will ensure that land use practices are compatible with the long-term protection of the cleanup.
- Institutional Controls (ICs) and additional sampling, maintenance, and possible removal or in-situ treatment of contamination will be required to protect human health. The trestle area in Deer Lodge is a recreational area that will be

addressed as part of the cleanup. Specific ICs identified as necessary are as follows: continued county zoning regulations, deed restrictions and permanent funding for Arrowstone Park, and a groundwater sampling program and use controls to prevent domestic consumption of contaminated groundwater until the groundwater reaches cleanup levels.

- Monitoring during construction, construction BMPs, and post-construction environmental monitoring are required.
- Because the National Park Service has specific cleanup needs and responsibilities under the laws that govern National Historic Sites, such as the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, the Selected Remedy is modified and expanded for this area in this *Record of Decision*.

Consideration of Significant Public Comments

EPA factored significant public comments into the final Selected Remedy, as outlined below.

Landowners and Powell County Commissioners expressed concerns about weed control, flexibility in application of removal and in-situ treatments on their land, traffic, and safety issues, and the proposed width of the riparian buffer zone. These concerns have been addressed as follows:

- Weed prevention and control is emphasized in the Selected Remedy.
- The Selected Remedy states clearly that the riparian buffer zone is flexible in width, depending on site-specific conditions, and should be coordinated with a landowner's land use plans.
- The Selected Remedy describes EPA policy regarding PRP payment for access to land for remedy implementation, and emphasizes the need to coordinate BMP planning and payment considerations with existing programs when possible.

- The Selected Remedy describes measures to be taken to emphasize project safety as the project is implemented.

The State of Montana Natural Resource Damage Program submitted a study demonstrating potential chronic risks to fish from arsenic. This information supports the need for an aggressive cleanup remedy.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) stated that areas treated in-situ should be monitored to ensure compliance with health-based arsenic soil performance standards. ATSDR also emphasized the need to address the trestle recreational area in Deer Lodge because soil samples exceed standards for arsenic. The remedy requires additional monitoring and cleanup to ensure that health-based arsenic standards are met.

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) and many other commentors stated that the remedy for the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site should ensure compliance with unique requirements for that site. EPA consulted closely with the National Park Service and has modified the cleanup plan for this part of the site.

Several public interest groups emphasized the need to achieve stable and protective streambanks that would hold during high flows. The Selected Remedy describes the necessary streambank stabilization techniques in detail.

How to Find Documents

The Administrative Record for the site contains documents that have been used to make the decision on how to clean up the site. The Administrative Record can be reviewed at:

EPA's Records Center
10 West 15th Street; Suite 3200
Helena, MT 59626
Phone: 406-457-5046
Monday – Friday

You may also call the Records Center for a copy of the complete *Record of Decision*.

For information on the Clark Fork River or for a full copy of the *Record of Decision*, check any of the following **information repositories**:

Hearst Free Library
4th and Main Street
Anaconda, MT 59711
Phone: 406-563-6932

EPA Butte Office
155 West Granite
Butte, MT 59701
Phone: 406-782-3838

Montana Tech
1300 West Park
Butte, MT 59701
Phone: 406-496-4281

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
National Park Service
210 Missouri Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: 406-846-2070

Powell County Planning Office
409 Missouri Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: 406-846-3680

Mansfield Library
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
Phone: 406-243-6860

Missoula City/County Library
301 East Main Street
Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406-721-2665

For more information call or write to:

Bob Fox, EPA, 406-457-5033,
fox.bob@epa.gov

or

Brian Bartkowiak, DEQ, 406-841-5036,
bbartkowiak@state.mt.us

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